

CLAIMS

1. A lancet with a removable guard located over the point of a needle part of the lancet, the guard being formed of a moulded plastics material with an outer edge thickened region leading from the end of the guard remote from the needle tip to a thinner section of the plastics material approaching the needle tip.

2. A lancet according to claim 1, wherein the guard is formed with a centrally positioned hole close to the end of the guard remote from the needle point.

3. A lancet according to claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the plastics material forms a further thickened region about the needle tip, but separated from the outer edge region by said thinner section.

4. A lancet according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the guard is of generally tab-like form, with the thickened region forming arc-like portions on the two side edges of the guard.

5. A lancet according to any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the guard is interconnected with a support body holding the needle via a breakable neck portion moulded with the guard and the support body.

6. A method of forming a lancet in which a needle is held in a mould formed to create a support body for holding the base portion of the needle and a removable guard about the pointed needle tip, the mould having an entry point for plastics material, at the end of the guard remote from the needle point, leading to an outer edge thickened hollow region which in turn leads to a thinner hollow section approaching the needle tip and plastics material is injected into the mould via the entry point to create the guard about the needle tip.

7. A method according to claim 6, wherein the plastics material flows around both sides of a pin located close to said entry point towards said edge thickened hollow region.

8. A method according to claim 6 or claim 7, wherein the plastics material

flows into an enlarged hollow region surrounding the needle tip from said thinner hollow section.

9. A method according to any one of claims 6 to 8, wherein the plastics material flows through a neck portion of the mould leading to the part of the mould defining the support body.

10. A lancet or a method of forming a lancet substantially as herein described with reference to the accompanying drawings.

11. Any novel combination of features of a lancet or a method of forming a lancet as described herein and/or as illustrated in the accompanying drawings.

